

**New Castle City Council Special Meeting
Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street
Tuesday – November 27, 2012 – 6 p.m.**

Present:

Council President William Barthel
Councilperson Teel Petty

Absent:

Councilperson John Cochran
Councilperson John Gaworski
Councilperson Ted Megginson

Also present: Mayor Donald Reese, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Lt. Adam Brams

President Barthel said this was the first time in the past three and one-half years the Council has not had a quorum. He said the Council cannot conduct any official City business at this meeting but can have a discussion about some agenda items.

New Business

1. Discussion of the City's request to the Trustees for funding for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

President Barthel said this was the primary reason for the meeting originally. The intention was to be able to get back to the Trustees after this meeting but that will go into December due to the lack of a quorum. He asked Lt. Brams to talk about what the Police Department is looking for from the Trustees.

Administrator Thomas said in the Council packets is information about the ARRA payments, what was put in by the City for its request a year ago and a listing of what was granted from 2001 to the current year.

Lt. Brams said the Police Department has three items to request. The first is \$30,000 for a new vehicle to replace a vehicle. The second is an upgrade for the department's audiolog server and software, which records the telephones in the Police building. To replace the system would cost \$21,561. The department is looking for an upgrade for \$13,700. The final request is for an upgrade of its records management systems. There is a need to make it Web-based. It was designed 12 years ago and works 75 percent of the time. The cost is \$28,600.

President Barthel said he would like the City to seek \$30,000 for Police cars but get the option at the time of purchase or budgeting based on what the Department actually needs that year.

Lt. Brams said it would be nice to have the option.

Administrator Thomas said Chief Kevin McDerby has indicated the Department right now is set with unmarked vehicles.

Lt. Brams concurred and said the need for this year is for a patrol vehicle.

Mike Alfree asked what the life cycle would be for the upgrades for the audiolog and the records management programs. He said regarding the audiolog for an extra few thousand dollars the City could replace it rather than upgrading it.

Administrator Thomas asked whether there would be a significant difference in terms of how long the technology would last if it was replaced rather than upgraded.

Lt. Brams said there would be a difference but he does not know how big of a difference.

A discussion was held about what would be the most cost-effective way to go.

Administrator Thomas recommended getting the same type of information for the records management system.

Councilperson Megginson said Public Works again is seeking the dump truck that was sought a year ago. The existing truck is one year older now.

President Barthel asked if there is a way to keep that truck operating until the final two years on the payment for the garbage truck, paid by the Trust, is completed.

A discussion was held about the ARRA payments.

President Barthel said he would like Council to consider asking for help on those payments next year. He also said he would like to consider requesting assistance with maintenance of the City's trees. He would like to see the assistance increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Administrator Thomas said the other item the City did receive funding for last year was \$1,000 for Summer Recreation.

A brief discussion was held about when information regarding FEMA funds and the dikes might be available.

2. Item from the Mayor concerning tractor trailer truck traffic within certain parts of the City.

Mayor Reese said his simple solution was to put up two signs that state no trucks over 5,000 pounds. He also would like flashing lights on the signs.

Mr. Alfree said they are destroying the town—trees, roads, sewer grates, etc. He said there is inadequate signage regarding Route 9 and trucks. He said it is time for the City to get serious about tractor-trailers coming through the City.

A discussion was held about possible solutions.

President Barthel suggested handing this matter and recommendations off to the Planning Commission and the City Planner to take a look at everything and formulate suggestions that the City can bring to DelDOT.

Mr. Alfree said he plans to send State Representatives a request for them to deal with DelDOT.

3. Discussion of a request from the Police Department for grant funding for replacement of vehicle video recording systems.

Lt. Brams said the current in-car video cameras operate on a DVD. They are becoming a maintenance nightmare. The Department is seeking to replace them. Instead of DVDs they would be uploaded in real time to a server. Often the Police Department is required to provide these to the Courts. Highway Safety has a pot of money. New Castle is one of 11 agencies that have requested cameras. There may be money also for install costs and the server. The City is seeking seven cameras. Highway Safety wants everything bought and paid for by the end of December. The City's cost would be \$5,810 for install and server, if Highway Safety funds seven cameras.

The grant funding is for cameras in the vehicle, a maximum for \$35,140 for the seven cameras.

Highway Safety will tell the City in December how many it will get. Lt. Brams already has submitted the request.

President Barthel asked if the Department has looked at its budget to see where it might have some flexibility to cover the non-grant costs.

Lt. Brams said they would look to find where there might be funds available.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickinson
New Castle City Clerk